

**BRISTOL WARREN REGIONAL
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 14, 2014**

The bi-monthly meeting of the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee was held on Monday, April 14, 2014, in the cafeteria of Mt. Hope High School, 199 Chestnut Street in Bristol, RI. The Chairperson, Paul Silva, called the meeting to order at approximately 7:09 PM.

Present: Paul Silva, Chair; John Bento, Vice Chairman; Karen A. Lynch, Secretary; Susan Rancourt, Treasurer; Diana Campbell, Marjorie McBride, William O'Dell, John P. Saviano and Lynn Wainwright; Melinda L. Thies, Superintendent; Mario J. Andrade, Assistant Superintendent; Mary Almeida, Director of Literacy; Leslie Anderson, Director of Pupil Personnel; and Pauline Silva, Director of Administration and Finance

OPENING BUSINESS

All present were invited to recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

PUBLIC COMMENT / PUBLIC FORUM

None.

Based on advice from the District's attorney, Chairman Silva stated,

for the record, that the KMS Principal single-year contract would be removed from Superintendent recommendation #S2014-20 and rescheduled for a vote at the April 28th School Committee meeting.

Mrs. Lynch announced that the papers located on the lockers at the back of the cafeteria were placed there to showcase all student athletes who had a grade point average of 3.0 or better in the first semester of the school year. She congratulated those students for a job well done.

ROCKWELL SCHOOL PRESENTATION

Ms. McAuliffe began the presentation for Rockwell School by giving credit to Artie Goldstein for his fine work in producing a fabulous video to showcase Rockwell School. She then introduced the video which highlighted various grades, classroom activities, teachers, staff and PTO Group programs.

Ms. McAuliffe thanked the very dedicated staff and hardworking PTO Group of Rockwell School.

Several School Committee members asked questions concerning 21st century learning, the new evaluation process and the recent implementation of laptop use for students. Ms. McAuliffe responded to those inquiries highlighting the positive programs and tools in place for moving forward, and the benefits already realized. She shared that this year's Rockwell NECAP scores show 58% proficient

with distinction in grade 3.

School Committee members thanked Ms. McAuliffe, staff and children for attending the meeting. Mrs. Thies commented that she was impressed with the professional quality of the video.

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION:

RECOMMENDATION #S2014-17: Personnel

MOTION: Mr. Saviano made a motion to approve the Superintendent's recommendation for personnel recommendations; seconded by Mrs. Lynch. The motion passed unanimously.

S2014-17 A-F: PERSONNEL

A. APPOINTMENTS: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint the following applicants to the positions of PC Technician/ Analyst and Secretary as listed below:

1. Marc Brayton PC Technician/Analyst

Effective: Immediately

Reason: To fill a vacancy

(Resignation – J. Farias)

Funding: Operational Budget

2. Christine E. McGovern Secretary – Mt. Hope High

Effective: April 15, 2014

**Reason: To fill a vacancy
(Transfer – K. Squatrito)**

Funding: Operational Budget

B. HIGH SCHOOL EXTENDED DAY PROGRAM: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint the following individuals for the 2013-14 session only of the Mt. Hope High School Extended Day Program contingent upon sufficient enrollment:

Name Position

- 1. Diane Amaral Strategies for Math Success**
- 2. Karen Cunha Strategies for Math Success**

C. KINDERGARTEN SCREENING TEACHERS: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint the following individuals as Kindergarten Screening Teachers for the 2013-14 school year only:

Name

- 1. Maria Grace Arruda**
- 2. Michelle DeMello**
- 3. Diane Gallison**
- 4. Jamie Hawkins**
- 5. Angela Hawkins**
- 6. Theresa Silva**

D. EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint the following applicants to the extracurricular positions listed below for the 2013-14 school year only (pending certification, funding and sufficient sign-ups to warrant running these programs):

SPRING COACHES – MT. HOPE HIGH

Sport Position Coach

- 1. Baseball (Boys) Asst. Coach James I. Brackett, III ***
- 2. Track (Outdoor-Boys) Head Coach Jhonatas Ribeiro ***

*** Pending satisfactory completion of pre-employment requirements**

E. CERTIFIED SUBSTITUTES: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to place on file in the office of the Superintendent the following applications for certified substitutes pending satisfactory completion of pre-employment requirements:

CERTIFIED

Name Area/Level

1. Kenneth M. Ascoli Health/Physical Education

2. Ian G. Bedard Elementary

3. Mary Ellen Espanola Registered Nurse

F. RESIGNATIONS/RETIREMENTS: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to accept the resignation of F. Patrick Lattuca III from the position of Elementary Principal as listed below:

1. F. Patrick Lattuca III Principal – Colt Andrews

Effective: June 30, 2014

Reason: Personal

RECOMMENDATION #S2014-18: That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the request of (2)

Bristol families to home school their children for the 2013-2014 school year, adhering to all requirements as set forth by the Bristol Warren Regional School District.

MOTION: Mr. Saviano made a motion to approve the request of (2) Bristol families to homeschool their children; seconded by Mrs. Campbell. The motion passed unanimously.

RECOMMENDATION #S2014-19: That the School Committee upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the 2014-2015 Academic Year Calendar.

MOTION: Mr. Saviano made a motion to approve the 2014-2015 Academic Year Calendar; seconded by Mrs. McBride.

DISCUSSION: Proposed modifications to the 2014-2015 Academic Year Calendar were discussed. Ramifications and benefits of those changes were also addressed.

A consensus was reached to move the Professional Development Day initially scheduled for January 14th to January 16th in order to allow for a long weekend connected with the Martin Luther King birthday holiday on January 19th.

For the purposes of tonight's meeting, Mrs. Thies stated that she was primarily interested in a discussion. She requested that a formal vote

be taken at the April 28th School Committee Meeting. She feels it is important to engage the BWEA concerning the proposed changes to the 2014-2015 Academic Year calendar before a final vote is made. Mrs. Thies formally withdrew her recommendation to approve the 2014-2015 Academic Year Calendar postponing until the April 28th School Committee Meeting.

RECOMMENDATION #S2014-20: That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve renewing Single-year Administrators Contract as amended.

MOTION: Mr. Saviano made a motion to approve the Single-year Administrators Contract Renewal as amended; seconded by Mrs. Rancourt. The motion passed with a 7-1 vote; Mrs. McBride dissenting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – 7:49 p.m.

Chairman Silva stated, for the record, that a short Executive Session will take place for the purpose of seeking legal advice. No action will be taken.

Pursuant to Open Meeting Laws 42-46-5(a)(2)(7) for the following:

1. Budgetary/Spending Adjustments for FY2014-2015 Budget - Discussion
2. Court Decision – BWRSD vs. Town of Warren – Litigation

MOTION: Mrs. Lynch made a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:49 p.m.; seconded by Mr. Saviano. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Mr. Saviano made a motion to adjourn Executive Session at 8:13 p.m.; seconded by Mrs. McBride. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA FOCUS

Budgetary/Spending Adjustments for FY2014-2015 Budget – Discussion

Chairman Silva introduced the topic stating that during the FY13 budget request, two years ago, the motion to authorize payment to the School Department for a bottom line amount was approved by the JFC. The School Department did not, however, receive the full authorized amount. As a result, the District had to determine a mode of operation within the shortfall.

Chairman Silva stated that if the full authorized amount of the FY15 budget request was not realized again, the School Department would be facing a shortfall of \$1 million to \$1.5 million. Chairman Silva commented that he had asked the Director of Finance, Mrs. Silva, to research the combined dollar amount for all extra curricular activities including club programs, marching band, chorus, theater and athletics. The purpose of calculating this amount was to shed light on how far-reaching a school funding shortfall of \$1 million to \$1.5

million would be to the District if all extra-curricular activities were cut. Mrs. Silva determined that the total cost of running all extra curricular activity programs would be approximately \$715,000. Chairman Silva emphasized that if a \$1 million to \$1.5 million shortfall were to occur, \$715,000 would only cover half the amount. In fairness, the District would have to look across the board for cuts were a significant shortfall to occur.

Concerns were shared by several School Committee members emphasizing how detrimental the impact would be to the District and most importantly the students if the School Department did not receive the full authorized budget request amount for FY15.

Mrs. Thies commented that the Bristol Warren Regional School District prides itself on never cutting programs, but looking to efficiencies in terms of the organizational structure. Staff , administration and Council 94 have historically made sacrifices. The FY15 budget request includes the reduction of 8.2 positions. Mrs. Thies stated the District has strived to safeguard a comprehensive, quality education for the students. She added that it would be a sad day if the District needed to make across the board cuts that would effect the enrichment of student's education and their education as a whole.

Chairman Silva thanked Mrs. Thies and her administrative team for the phenomenal job they have done with fiscal management for the

District. Chairman Silva highlighted the positive outcomes during Mrs. Thies administration including the highest graduation rate in the history of the District, and Reading and Writing NECAP scores that are second in the state.

Chairman Silva closed by stating that the District is not in the position of a shortfall yet. The purpose of the discussion was to emphasize the impact a \$1 million to \$1.5 million shortfall would have on the District; most especially the education of the Bristol Warren students.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Mrs. Campbell stated that she spoke to the Director of Technology, Mr. Morris, about the possibility of instituting a “School Committee Library” tab as part of the School Committee’s secure webpage on the District website. This feature would allow certain documents such as the Program of Studies, Academic Calendar, Superintendent’s Goals, etc., to be uploaded into a central location for easy retrieval. Mrs. Campbell suggested that all requests for document placement to the “School Committee Library” be given to the School Committee secretary. Chairman Silva and the School Committee members supported Mrs. Campbell’s suggestion.

Mrs. Wainwright stated that Patricia Brissette would like to make a presentation before the School Committee showcasing COZ and the programs they offer throughout the District.

Mrs. Wainwright and Mr. Saviano gave testimonies of their experiences at the recent National School Board Conference.

Mrs. Wainwright announced that she was donating Twelve Years a Slave and The Freedom Writers Diary to the Mt. Hope High School Library. She shared the background of those books. Chairman Silva thanked Mrs. Wainwright for her thoughtfulness. Mrs. Thies thanked Mrs. Wainwright for her creativity and for the exuberance she brings to the school board which is very inspiring.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – 8:46 PM

Pursuant to Open Meeting Laws 42-46-5(a)(1) for the following:

1. Superintendent's Contract - Discussion

Chairman Silva stated that no action will be taken in Executive Session. The School Committee will only resume open session to adjourn the meeting.

MOTION: At 8:46 p.m. Mrs. Campbell made a motion to go into Executive Session; seconded by Mr. Saviano. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: At 9:38 p.m. Mrs. Campbell made a motion to adjourn Executive Session; seconded by Mrs. Wainwright. The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT – 9:41 PM

MOTION: At 9:41 PM Mr. O'Dell motioned to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Mrs. Rancourt. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen A. Lynch, Secretary

/kd